

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

AIR 2003

HUL-A-740

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~~PBSUCCESS/AYLAT~~

12 MAY 1954

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[]

Guatemala

INFO: PBSUCCESS, Headquarters

LINCOLN

MUGUAN

Operational Report - SUPERIOR

REFS: (A) HUL-A-1021
(B) HUL-A-1025

1. The progress which you, especially [] and [] are making in activating [] for our objectives, is most gratifying. Please command both on our behalf and ask them to continue in this direction with all possible intensity. In addition to the items mentioned in both references, we are wondering whether [] could not be used more directly to undermine communist predominance in the labor unions. This might be attempted less through publications, but through individual influence, exerted by appropriately placed [] upon labor union officials who are practicing Catholics and may be expected to listen to confidential advice from that side.

2. Reference A, paragraph 1: Please let us (and Headquarters) have several copies each of all the articles in question so that we may use them to stimulate either direct reprinting or the writing of similar articles outside Guatemala. We shall try to provide you with additional articles along the lines you indicate. However, we suggest that you should not rely entirely on our limited capability of providing complete manuscripts for the rapidly increasing number of our outlets but try to get as many articles as possible written by local talent, merely indicating suitable subjects and the kind of treatment we should like to see given those subjects. We are attaching a list of a few possible themes for [] publications which you might wish to pass on to [] for this purpose.

3. Reference B, paragraph 1: This seems a good idea. We agree that the publication must not be too long and that it would not be necessary to reprint the text of the [] after all the wide distribution it already received.

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On the other hand, some introduction tying the texts of the [] to the present situation is definitely needed: this does not have to be a direct attack on the Guatemalan Government, but a note emphasizing that the [] is unalterably opposed to the doctrines and practices of communism, however open or disguised, and that it is especially important for [] to study the [] on these matters now, facing the insidious growth of communism in Guatemala (or words to that effect).

4. Reference B, paragraph 3: the letter to [] has been transmitted. If we don't receive his reply at the next contact, we shall remind him of the matter.

JEROME C. DUNBAR

JCD/EFL/a

Attachments: (In English and Spanish)

10 May 1954

Distribution:

2 - GUAT (w/att)
2 - WASH (w/att)
1 - LINC (w/att)

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SUGGESTED THEMES

1. The Communists continue atheistic propaganda

(Communist propaganda attempts to deny the atheistic character of its system, pointing at the reopening of a few churches in Russia, the participation of a few misguided clergymen in communist "peace" propaganda and similar campaigns, etc. However, the communists have not changed their doctrine—in which there is no space whatsoever for spiritual values and in which religion is condemned as "an opiate for the people"—, nor have they ceased to persecute the Church and its officials wherever the Church does not bow to the demands of the communist dictators. Education under communist rule continues to be entirely without and against religion. Perhaps most important, the communist youth organizations, led by the KOMSOMOL with its 16 million members in the Soviet Union, continue to imbue youth with an uncompromising spirit of militant atheism.)

2. Communism denies and destroys the dignity of Man.

(Dialectical Materialism, the philosophy devised by Marx and further developed by Lenin, declares man to be merely a product of his economic conditions and denies that man has a soul or a free will. Accordingly, the individual, his wishes, his happiness and even his very life are of no concern to the Soviet rulers. The inhabitants of the Soviet Union are actually state slaves who must work wherever their communist masters order them and who can even in their spare time enjoy only the meager pleasures which the Soviet system provides, see only the stage plays and movies of which the government approves, read only the books and newspapers which have passed communist censorship and listen even only to music which has been found to conform with the policies of the all-powerful Soviet state. Life under communism is therefore in every respect diametrically opposed to the basic tenets of Christianity.)

3. The Fate of the Orthodox Church in Russia.

(During the Russian revolution of 1917, most Churches were destroyed, the remaining ones turned into "museums of atheism" or desecrated for other communist purposes, many priests killed or forced to flee for their lives or had to go "underground," beginning a new life under a new name in a region where nobody knew them to be ordained priests. This condition remained without major changes until World War II; then Stalin found to his dismay that his subjects did not want to die for communism, that the Red Army soldiers surrendered by the hundreds of thousands and that the civilian population welcomed the invading German armies as liberators. In this desperate situation, Stalin was forced to give the Orthodox Church at least some semblance of freedom so that priests could do what communist propagandists had been unable to achieve: exhort the people to defend

their homeland. But even then, Stalin made sure that the re-established Church was completely controlled by the Soviet state, sermons and other Church statements and documents had to be censored in advance by the secret police, etc. After the war, Stalin used the Orthodox Church also for propaganda abroad and some of its leading dignitaries undertook extensive travels to many countries, using religious affairs to camouflage their political missions. There is still no religious education for children in Russia, the Church has no influence on marriages—which are permitted or denied entirely for political reasons: see, for instance, the ban to marry foreigners—and the all-powerful KOMSOMOL with its 16 million members, the communist youth organization, second in importance only to the communist party itself, continues to be a gigantic machine spreading militant atheism.)

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TEMAS SUGERIDOS

1. Los Comunistas Continúan La Propaganda Ateísta

(La propaganda comunista pretende negar el carácter ateísta de su sistema, señalando a la reapertura de algunas iglesias en Rusia, la participación de algunos clérigos extraviados en la propaganda de "paz" comunista y parecidas campañas, etc. Sin embargo, los comunistas no han cambiado su doctrina -- en la cual no hay espacio alguno para valores espirituales y en la cual la religión está condenada como "un narcótico para la gente" --, ni han cesado de perseguir a la Iglesia y a sus dignatarios en todos los lugares en que la Iglesia no se somete a las demandas de los dictadores comunistas. La educación bajo el mando comunista continúa siendo enteramente sin y en contra de la religión. Quiza lo más importante, la organización de la juventud comunista, dirigida por el KOMSOMOL con sus 16 millones de partidarios en la Unión Soviética, continúan empapando a la juventud un inflexible espíritu de militante ateísmo.)

2. El Comunismo Niega y Destruye la Dignidad del Hombre

(Materialismo Dialéctico, la filosofía ideada por Marx y desarrollada por Lenin, declara que el hombre es meramente el producto de sus condiciones económicas y niega que el hombre tenga un alma y libre albedrío. Por lo tanto, el individuo, sus deseos, su felicidad y hasta su propia vida carece de importancia para los gobernantes Soviéticos. Los habitantes de la Unión Soviética son actualmente esclavos del estado que tienen que trabajar donde sus amos comunistas ordenen y en su tiempo libre sólo pueden disfrutar de los escasos placeres que el sistema Soviético les proporciona, ver solamente las obras de teatro y películas aprobadas por el gobierno, leer únicamente los libros y periódicos que han pasado por la censura comunista y escuchar solamente la música que concuerda con las reglas del todo-poderoso estado Soviético. La vida bajo el comunismo es por lo tanto en todo respecto diametralmente opuesta a los dogmas básicos del Cristianismo.)

3. El Destino de la Iglesia Ortodoxa Rusa

(Durante la revolución rusa del 1917, la mayoría de las Iglesias fueron destruidas, el resto se convirtieron en "museos de ateísmo" o fueron profanadas por otros propósitos comunistas; mataron o forzaron a huir a muchos sacerdotes, otros tuvieron que salir "subterráneamente", empezando una nueva vida bajo un nuevo nombre en una región donde nadie les conocía como ordenados sacerdotes. Esta condición continuó sin mayores cambios hasta la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Luego Stalin encontró para su gran consternación que sus súbditos no estaban dispuestos a morir por el comunismo, que los soldados del Ejército Rojo se sometían por cientos y miles y que la población civil le daba la bienvenida como liberadores a los ejércitos invasores alemanes. En esta situación desesperada, Stalin fue forzado a dar a la Iglesia Ortodoxa por lo menos un simulacro de libertad para que los sacerdotes lograran lo que los propagandistas comunistas no pudieron conseguir: exhortar a la gente a defender a su patria. Pero aún en ese momento, Stalin hizo claro que la re-establecida Iglesia estaba completamente controlada por el estado Soviético, los sermones y otros datos y documentos tenían que ser censurados por adelantado por la policía secreta, etc. Después de la guerra, Stalin usó también a la Iglesia Ortodoxa para la propaganda fuera del país, y algunos de los dignatarios más destacados emprendieron largos viajes a muchos

países, usando los asuntos religiosos para encubrir sus misiones políticas. Aún no existe la educación religiosa para los niños en Rusia, la Iglesia no tiene influencia alguna en los matrimonios -- los cuales son permitidos o denegados por razones políticas: vea, por ejemplo, la ley prohibiendo matrimonios con extranjeros -- y el todo-poderoso KOMSOMOL con sus 16 millones de partidarios, la organización de la juventud comunista, segundo en importancia al partido comunista, continua siendo una gigantesca máquina propagando el militante ateísmo.